

February

Annual Report

On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1956



BY

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.

Newport, I.W.:

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COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Newport for the year 1956.

The Live Birth Rate was 13·2, almost the same as in the previous year.

The Crude Death Rate was 16·1, almost the same as in the previous year.

The Still Birth Rate fell from 27·2 to 21·9 and the Infantile Mortality Rate fell from 20·0 to 15·0.

The total deaths from cancer were 40 compared with 39 the previous year. These included 5 cases of lung cancer in males (7 the previous year) and 2 cases of lung cancer in females (Nil the previous year).

Of the total of 100 deaths notified as from heart disease, 12 were due to coronary artery disease in men and 8 in women.

During the year there were 35 cases of measles compared with 466 the previous year. There were no deaths from this disease.

Two cases only of poliomyelitis were notified: however one of the cases was fatal.

Three cases of food poisoning were notified, none requiring hospital treatment. The infected food and organism concerned it was not possible to trace.

There is considerable laxity among certain general practitioners in the notification of infectious diseases in general but perhaps the most serious default in relation to notification is the delay that has occurred in some cases.

This delay is particularly dangerous when it occurs in cases of food poisoning. Frequently notifications are received of cases which occurred many weeks before.

There is a marked fall in the incidence of infectious diseases but it would be a mistake to be confident that infectious diseases are necessarily being eradicated. The growing therapeutic armamentarium, mostly in the field of

antibiotics, is effective against a large range of infections which were until recently very common and in many cases fatal.

As in other fields of natural science there appears to be an optimum balance of nature with which man interferes at his peril. The old enemy is put to flight but a new one, of unknown power takes its place. It is clear that the indiscriminate, and in certain cases, unwise use of the new powerful, and incidentally expensive, antibiotics may in fact be producing new diseases or by causing the deaths of older more familiar organisms, permitting the profuse development of germs for long kept in abeyance and against which therapy, in the present state of our knowledge is comparatively helpless.

The popularity of modern trailer caravans for holidays in the Island is still on the increase. The licensed sites are continuing to improve but difficulties in individual caravans arise from time to time due to verminous occupants leaving their vermin behind.

Sickness amongst holiday-makers living in caravans occasionally occurs and presents its own particular problems. Where infectious diseases occur, mostly in the case of children, the cases are usually transferred to Fairlee Hospital and infected clothing, bedding and personal effects are removed for disinfection at the Hospital.

It seems rather an anomaly that whereas premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream have to be registered by the local authority, no registration is required in the case of persons selling ice-cream from barrows or other mobile shops in the streets, despite the fact that this branch of the trade is the one requiring perhaps the most supervision. A man with a cart or bicycle could obtain a bulk supply of ice-cream from a manufacturer and start off for the day. He might be dirty in person, clothing and habits, and probably has no washing facilities on his vehicle, notwithstanding that he had to be out from morning to night, handle considerable amounts of money and attend to his own bodily needs.

The defect in control ought to be met by a local bylaw requiring the registration by the local authority of all food hawkers and any premises used by hawkers for the storage of food. This would give the local authority power to refuse or cancel registration if it appears to them that the public health is likely to be endangered by the act or default of any person in relation to the quality, storage or distribution of food, or if any premises are unsatisfactory.

A great deal of attention is given now to the effect of maternal care in infancy on mental health in later life. This stresses the importance of the maternity and child welfare services and especially the personal advice on mothercraft given by midwives and health visitors.

Some suffering in children is the result of deliberate cruelty by the parents: infinitely more is the result of ignorance, neglect and failure to understand the needs of young children or the responsibilities—and the joys—of parenthood.

A child may be deprived of affection, though physically not ill-treated, in its own home. Indeed, this kind of cruelty is probably much more common than the other, and may be much more damaging in its effects in later life.

Unhappy children make unhappy parents and the pattern is repeated in the next generation.

Social workers are far less ready than formerly to promote the separation of the child from his family, however inadequate the family setting might appear to be. Removal of the child or children should be regarded as a last resort and a confession—a very expensive confession—of failure.

Today the emphasis is on preventive work in the home, skilled family visiting, educational work and on strengthening, so far as is possible, the parents' sense of responsibility.

The difficulty of detecting neglect and cruelty to the pre-school child is great. How much more difficult it is to detect—let alone deal with—that other kind of cruelty, the loveless home.

The parents involved may be subnormal mentally, psychopathic, psychotic or neurotic, but emotional instability is often a greater factor than intellectual defect.

I must thank the Mayor and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, the Public Health Inspectors and all members of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1956.

Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG)., L.R.C.P.
(LOND.), D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector and Meat & Food Inspector—

F. K. AZE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector—

H. S. BULL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures) ...	20,160
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1956) per rate books	5,388
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.56)	£296,262
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1955-56) ...	£629

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	13·2
Comparative factor	1·13
Comparative Birth Rate	14·9
Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	21·9
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	16·1
Comparative factor	0·55
Comparative Death Rate	8·9
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy childbirth :—	
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All infants per 1000 live births ...	15·0
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	16·0
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	40
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 267 of which 250 were legitimate and 17 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 13·2 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 15·7.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 325 which gives a death rate of 16·1 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 13·9.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 20·0 per 1000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 23·8.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspections under the Public Health Act	...	...	243
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	177
Drainage	...	...	219
Smoke Tests	...	...	3
Camping and Caravan Sites	...	...	22
Knackers Yards	...	...	18
Shops Act	...	...	36
Factories	...	...	11
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	31
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	28
Bakehouses	...	...	10
Dairies	...	...	29
Pet Animals Act	...	...	1
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	13
Infectious Diseases	...	...	31
Rodent Control	...	...	3
Swimming Baths	...	...	18
Licensed Premises	...	...	17
Rivers Pollution	...	...	7
Slaughterhouses	...	...	1114
			<hr/> 2031 <hr/>
Statutory Notices Served—Public Health Acts	...	...	9
Statutory Notices Served—Housing Acts	...	...	1
Informal Notices Served	...	...	90
Informal Notices Complied with	...	...	80
Nuisances abated	...	...	40
Water Samples			
(a) Drinking Water	...	...	87
(b) Swimming Pools	...	...	16
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	9
Bacteriological Food Sampling	...	...	115
Complaints Received	...	...	230

FOOD**Meat Inspection.****CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND
CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	1160	367	4731	1085	14532	—
No. Inspected	1160	367	4731	1085	14532	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	7	9	34	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	585	36	77	617	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	38.6	0.9	7.9	4.4	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	7	—	—	5	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	151	—	—	421	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.3	—	—	2.9	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	36	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	36	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Tons		Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
Total meat condemned	12		13	0	6	
Other Foodstuffs			1	3	3	
	12		14	3	9	

In addition 2,573 tins of miscellaneous foodstuffs were destroyed

There are four slaughterhouses in the Borough as follows:—

1. 5-7, Scarrot's Lane, Newport, occupied by C. F. H. Biles.
2. 35-39, Scarrot's Lane, Newport, occupied by A. W. Abraham & Co., Ltd.
3. 47, Scarrot's Lane, Newport, occupied by J. W. Wooldridge Ltd.
4. Heytesbury Slaughterhouse, Worsley Road, occupied by N. C. Williams.

During 1956 the Council made byelaws for securing sanitary conditions and management of private slaughterhouses which came into force on 1st January, 1957. These byelaws were brought to the notice of the owners of the licensed slaughterhouses who were given schedules of works necessary for compliance. This additional legislation has enabled the Council to obtain slaughterhouse improvements up to a reasonable standard and has also introduced much needed improvements particularly with regard to sterilisation of wiping cloths, knives, receptacles and equipment.

The total number of slaughtermen licensed by the Council during 1956 was 28.

Since meat supply became decontrolled in 1954, it has been necessary to give careful consideration to methods of disposal of condemned meat. During the year such meat was dealt with on a voluntary surrender basis and the method of disposal applied by your Inspectors was as follows:—All unfit meat was collected by Messrs. S. Cooper & Sons of Westminster Lane, Newport, for processing at high temperature into meat and bone meal for animal feeding and into inedible fat for industrial purposes. The only exceptions made were cases where the owner of the meat wished to retain possession of it and sell it raw for cat and dog food, but the Inspectors will only agree to this method subject to the following conditions.

1. The condemned meat must be capable of being handled safely in its raw state.
2. It must be dyed green.
3. The premises from which it is to be sold must be declared and in any case must be on the Isle of Wight.

These requirements are quite reasonable and are essential in the public interest, but they cannot be regarded as statutory. However, this arrangement is quite consistent with condemnation of meat on a voluntary surrender basis.

One owner of a carcase of beef was refused permission to re-sell the meat for cat and dog food and he stated that he wished to dispute the matter. The Medical Officer of Health was called in who confirmed the decision of the Meat Inspector, and the owner was then informed that he must either agree to hand over the meat for appropriate heat treatment or have it seized under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and have it dealt with by a magistrate who could order it to be destroyed or so disposed of as to prevent its use for human consumption.

All animals slaughtered in the Borough are inspected, and this work involves a good deal of overtime, Sunday, and Bank Holiday duty.

Examination of all beef for the presence of *Cysticercus bovis* has been continued. When one or more cysts are detected, the meat is released subject to cold storage treatment for 14 days at 14° Fahrenheit or 21 days at 20° Fahrenheit in order to render it safe for human consumption. Snap checks were made from time to time, and a new procedure adopted whereby cold storage requirements are printed on each condemnation certificate and the owner of the meat signs an undertaking to comply with them and declares where the meat is to be stored.

There is no statutory check system laid down, but the method adopted seems to be best suited to Borough requirements and works satisfactorily (N.B. the Bovis cyst develops into *Taenia Saginata* which is a human tapeworm up to 24 feet in length).

FOOD PREMISES, ETC.

88 visits were made to food preparation premises, foodshops and stores. Improvements have continued to be made throughout the year but it has not been found possible to make detailed inspections of all food premises with a view to securing the full requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, on account of the shortage of staff.

28 inspections of food premises registered under Sec. 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 were made.

There are 16 butchers premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, sausage meat and cooked meats, and there is one catering establishment registered for the preparation of cooked meats. With one exception these premises have been reasonably well maintained and appropriate action is pending in the case of the one exception.

MILK AND DAIRIES

29 visits were made to 14 Dairies in the Borough registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949-1954. This includes visits to one large H.T.S.T. pasteurisation plant and all such premises were generally well maintained. Certain minor matters requiring action by the Council were dealt with informally.

ICE CREAM

The following table gives the number of samples taken and their gradings according to the methylene blue test.

Samples taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
9	5	2	2	—
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	

All unsatisfactory samples are investigated and followed up.

There are 75 premises in the Borough registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream and the equipment provided is such as to enable the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947-1952, to be complied with. There are now no premises in the Borough which are registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream.

WATER SUPPLY

The following samples of water were taken for Bacteriological Examination during the year and the results were as follows:—

	No. of samples satisfactory	No. of samples unsatisfactory
Carisbrooke Pumping Station	... 16	3
Bowcombe Pumping Station ...	... 16	5
154, High Street, Newport ...	... 19	—
58, St. Johns Road ...	... 16	—
Fernhill Cottage, Wootton ...	... 1	—
56, St. Johns Road ...	... 5	—
Carisbrooke Water Works ...	... 1	—
82, Lugley Street ...	... 1	—
152, High Street ...	... 1	—
39, Quay Street ...	... 1	—
Long Lane Cottage ...	... —	2
	—	—
TOTAL ...	... 77	10
	—	—

SWIMMING POOLS.

Bacteriological Samples	No. of Samples satisfactory	No. of Samples unsatisfactory
Seaclose Swimming Pool ...	... 6	—
Lakeside Swimming Pool ...	... 4	2
Little Canada Holiday Camp ...	... 6	1

KNACKERS YARDS

18 visits were made to the two licensed knackers yards. Works necessary to comply with Model Byelaws, Series II and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations 1954, were completed during the year.

DRAINAGE

Work in connection with defective drains continued. Although the Council possess no special powers for dealing with obstructed drains and private sewers it was possible to deal with all cases expeditiously by informal action.

The potential dangers associated with overflowing and leaking drains are well known and drainage work continues to be an important activity in the Department.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This now well-established service was continued throughout the year and the charge of £2 per emptying remained unaltered. The number of cesspools emptied was 67 which is a reduction of 28 in the number emptied during the previous year. The cost of emptying was £291 12s. 0d. of which £132 0s. 0d. was recovered by the Council.

The number of cesspools emptied compared with the number known to be in use gives an indication of the problem which confronts the Department.

HOUSING

The programme of slum clearance approved by the Minister was continued during the year and 9 houses were demolished. 3 of these were the last remaining hutments at Lynn Camp.

One house was made fit for human habitation following service of a notice under the Housing Act, 1936. Sec. 9.

FOOD CONSIGNMENT—SPECIAL EXAMINATION

A stock of 2,294 × 22lb. tins of frozen whole egg of Chinese origin was deposited in cold store in the Borough and a request was received from the Ministry of Health to carry out sampling in view of certain potential dangers associated with this product. Samples were taken from 115 tins and

Salmonella organisms were isolated from 39·1% of these. Ignoring the incidence of *S. pullorum* the results indicated that 13·9% of the tins examined showed Salmonella organisms known to be pathogenic to man.

It is known that foods containing infected egg are not rendered safe by ordinary confectioner's cooking and the importation of large stocks of this commodity, of which the consignment in Newport formed only a part, must be regarded as unfortunate.

At the end of the year, the ultimate disposal of this stock was still the subject of joint consultation between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occup- iers Pro- secuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	123	11	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Author- ity (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—
TOTAL	142	11	3	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecu- tions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORKERS.

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	100	—	—	—	—	—
Knitted Wear	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	101	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year 1956	132
Number of samples found to be positive ...	Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	9

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, was 80. There were no notifications of Diphtheria.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1956.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	12	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	9	—	*37
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Other diseases gen- erally notifiable	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	6	4	—
Polio- Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	10	—	—
Measles ...	35	—	—
Dysentery ...	2	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	1
Food Poisoning ...	3	—	—
TOTALS	80	7	38

*This figure may include certain cases of Pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Food Poisoning	Polio-Encephalitis	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Meningococcal Infection.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
2 " " 3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
3 " " 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
4 " " 5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—
5 " " 10	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	14	—
10 " " 15	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	1
15 " " 20	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
65 and over	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	12	—	—	9	6	—	3	—	2	1	10	—	35	2

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	—
Tuberculosis, other	1	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	29
Coronary disease, angina	12	8
Hypertension with heart disease ...	5	10
Other heart diseases	21	44
Other circulatory diseases	7	8
Influenza	—	3
Pneumonia	12	25
Bronchitis	9	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
All other accidents	3	7
Suicide	2	1
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes		138
		187

